Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 01 STOCKH 00753 111638Z 61 **ACTION EUR-12** INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /087 W ----- 030674 R 111441Z FEB 76 FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6772 INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI AMEMBASSY KINSHASA AMEMBASSY LISBON AMEMBASSY LUSAKA AMEMBASSY MAPUTO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMEMBASSY OSLO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK AMCONSUL CAPETOWN USMISSION USUN NEW YORK USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS CONFIDENTIAL STOCKHOLM 0753 CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, SW, AO, CU SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIES TO CRITICS OF SWEDISH AID TO CUBA REF: STOCKHOLM 0644 BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 02 STOCKH 00753 111638Z

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON ON FEBRUARY 10

REPLIED IN PARLIAMENT TO OPPOSITION CRITICISM OF CONTINUED SWEDISH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO CUBA IN THE LIGHT OF THAT COUNTRY'S MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. MODERATE PARTY M.P. ANDERS BJORCK CHARGED THAT CUBA IS CURRENTLY SPENDING MONTHLY IN ANGOLA A SUM EQUIVALENT TO ANNUAL SWEDISH ASSISTANCE TO CUBA (\$14 MILLION) WHILE LIBERAL M.P. OLA ULLSTEN QUESTIONED AIDING A COUNTRY (CUBA) WHICH IS "SPREADING REVOLUTION" IN ANOTHER CONTINENT.

- 2. IN HIS REPLY, ANDERSSON REITERATED THE POINT MADE BY PRIME MINISTER PALME IN A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE LAST WEEK (REFTEL) I.E., THAT CUBA INTERVENED IN ANGOLA ONLY AFTER THE "HATED AND FEARED RACIST REGIME" OF SOUTH AFRICA HAD SENT TROOPS TO THAT COUNTRY. AS PALME ALSO STATED, ANDERSSON SAID SWEDEN "IS CRITICAL OF THE CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT," AND CALLED FOR AN END TO ALL FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO REPEATED THE PRIME MINISTER'S ARGUMENT THAT FOREIGN AID SHOULD BE PART OF A LONG RANGE PROGRAM OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, ADDING THAT "ASSISTANCE MUST NOT BE MADE CONDITIONAL UPON THE STAND OR MEASURES A COUNTRY TAKES IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR BE USED AS AN INSTRUMENT OF PRESSURE TO INFLUENCE THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."
- 3. IN THE DEBATE THAT FOLLOWED, ANDERSSON ASKED BJORCK WHY HE DID NOT CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION TO WHICH BJORCK RETORTED THAT, "AS FAR AS I KNOW, SWEDEN IS NOT ASSISTING SOUTH AFRICA."

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4. COMMENT: AS THE EXTENT OF CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA BECOMES INCREASINGLY APPARENT TO THE SWEDISH PUBLIC, CRITICISM OF THE CONTINUING AID PROGRAM TO CUBA MAY BE EXPECTED TO INTENSIFY. WITH ONLY SEVEN MONTHS TO GO BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, WE WOULD EXPECT THE OPPOSITION POLITICANS TO CONTINUE TO HAMMER AWAY AT THE GOVERNMENT'S VULNERAILITY ON THIS ISSUE. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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